UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH DIVISION

| SHADY OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH OF | § | |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| HURST | § | |
| | § | |
| | § | |
| Plaintiff, | § | |
| | § | |
| V. | § | CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:21-CV-661 |
| | § | |
| UNITED FIRE AND CASUALTY | § | |
| COMPANY | § | |
| | § | |
| Defendant | § | |

DEFENDANT UNITED FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY'S NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Defendant United Fire and Casualty Company ("United" or "Defendant"), files its Notice of Removal of this action from the 141st Judicial District Court, Tarrant County, Texas to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Fort Worth Division, the Court for the District and Division encompassing the place where the lawsuit is currently pending. In support of this removal, Defendant relies upon the Index Filed in Support of Defendant's Notice of Removal filed contemporaneously herewith and shows the following:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On April 15, 2021, Plaintiff filed an Original Petition in the 141st Judicial District Court, Tarrant County, Texas captioned *Shady Oaks Baptist Church of Hurst v. United Fire and Casualty Company*, Cause Number 141-324710-21 (the "State Court Action). The Petition was served on United on April 19, 2021.

II. BASIS FOR REMOVAL

- 2. This Court has original jurisdiction over this State Court Action, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332(a), because it is a civil action between citizens of different states where the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs.
- 3. The Plaintiffs seek monetary relief between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000. *See* Exhibit "C" at paragraph II, page 1. Accordingly, the amount in controversy in this matter meets and exceeds the federal jurisdictional minimum of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.
- 4. Plaintiff is a Texas religious non-profit corporation with its principal place of business located in Hurst, Texas. See Exhibit "C" at paragraph 3, page 1.
- 5. Defendant, United Fire and Casualty Company at the time of the filing of this action, at the time of this removal, at all relevant times since and is currently, a citizen of the State of Iowa because it is an Iowa corporation with its principal place of business in the State of Iowa.
- 7. Because the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 and Plaintiff is a citizen of Texas while Defendant is a citizen of Iowa, this Court has original jurisdiction over the present action pursuant to 28 USC §1332. Therefore, removal is proper.
- 8. This action may be removed to this Court pursuant to 28 USC §1441(a), which allows for the removal of any civil action brought in the state court of which the District Courts of the United States have original jurisdiction, by the defendant or the defendants, to the District Court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place where such action is pending.
- 9. This Notice of Removal is filed within thirty (30) days after service (on April 19, 2021) by Defendant of the State Court Action. This Notice of Removal has also been filed within one year of the filing of Plaintiff's Original Petition by which the State Court Action was commenced. This Notice, therefore, if timely filed pursuant to 28 USC §1446 (b).

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III. PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

10. In accordance with 28 USC section 1446 (D), Defendant will promptly give written

notice of this Notice of Removal to Plaintiff through counsel of record and file a copy of this Notice

of Removal in the 141st Judicial District Court, Tarrant County, Texas.

11. Defendant reserves the right to amend or supplement this Notice of Removal.

12. The following are included in the Index filed contemporaneously with this Notice of

Removal:

Exhibit "A": An index of all documents that clearly identifies each document and indicates

the date the document was filed in the State Court action.

Exhibit "B": Civil Docket Sheet

Exhibit "C": Plaintiff's Original Petition

Exhibit "D": Citation to United

Exhibit "E": United's Original Answer

Exhibit "F":

United's Jury Demand

Exhibit "G": Curnutt Vacation Letter to Court

Exhibit "H": State Court Notice of Removal

For the above reasons, Defendant gives notice of the removal of the State Court Action to

this Court and respectfully requests that this action proceed before this Court as though it had

originally been instituted in this Court.

Dated: May 17, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

BROCK • GUERRA STRANDMO DIMALINE JONES, P.C.

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By:

ROBERT F. SCHEIHING State Bar No. 0177363500 bscheihing@brock.law

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document has been forwarded to the following counsel of record in compliance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure this 17th day of May, 2021:

Kelly Curnutt Cash H. Barker Curnutt Hafer, L.L.P. 301 West Abrams Street Arlington, Texas 76010

Email: kcurnutt@curnetthafer.com Email: cbarker@curnetthafer.com

ROBERT F. SCHEIHING